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HIGHLIGHTS:

2004 Small Grain Summary
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Small Grains Summary

All wheat production, at 174.3 million bushels, is up 22 percent from the 2003 crop of 142.3 million bushels. Montana's 2004 **winter wheat** production was 66.8 million bushels, one percent less than last year's revised production of 67.3 million bushels. Producers seeded 1.90 million acres, unchanged from the revised 2003 acreage. Producers harvested 1.63 million acres, down 190,000 acres from last year's revised acreage of 1.82 million acres. The 2004 average yield, at 41.0 bushels per acre, is 4 bushels higher than 2003 and is the highest yield since 1993 when producers averaged a record 42.0 bushels per acre.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 89.9 million bushels, up 49 percent from 2003 due to higher yields and more acres seeded and harvested in 2004. The final seeded acreage was 3.0 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year's revised acreage of 2.9 million acres. Producers harvested 2.9 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the 2003 revised acreage of 2.75 million acres. Yields averaged 31.0 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the August forecast, and up 9 bushels from 2003. The average yield was the highest since 1995 when it was 35 bushels per acre.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 570,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Producers harvested 550,000 acres, down 13 percent from 2003. The average yield was 32.0 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels per acre from last year, and up 3 bushels from the previous forecast. Yields for 2004 were one bushel below the historic high yield of 33 bushels recorded in 1991 and 1992. Total production for 2004 was estimated at 17.6 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year, setting a near all-time production record for Montana's durum producers. For the week ending September 26th, durum wheat harvesting was still not completed with only 60 percent of the acreage harvested which compares with 100 percent last year.

Montana **barley** producers seeded 1.0 million acres of barley in 2004, 150,000 acres fewer than the 2003 revised acreage of

1.15 million acres. This is the lowest acreage seeded since 1953, when 0.6 million acres were seeded. Producers harvested 830,000 acres, 20,000 fewer than the 2003 revised harvested acreage of 850,000 acres. The final yield for 2004 averaged 59.0 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from last year, and up 8 bushels from the August forecast. The average yield set a new historic high, bettering the previous record of 58.0 bushels per acre in 1993. Production was estimated to be 49.0 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year due to higher yields.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.4 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 105,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2003. Harvested acreage was set at 40,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yields averaged 60.0 bushels per acre, 16 bushels above 2003 and 9 bushels higher than the previous estimate, which is the highest oat yield since 1993.

U.S. **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.50 billion bushels. This is up nearly 1 percent from the August forecast but 13 percent below last year's crop. The U.S. yield is 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from August but 3.2 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 34.5 million acres, 6 percent below 2003. Planted area is 43.4 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Other spring wheat production in the United States is estimated at 574 million bushels, up 5 percent from the last forecast and up 8 percent from 2003. Harvested area is 13.3 million acres, 1 percent lower than last year. The U.S. yield is a record high 43.1 bushels per acre, 3.6 bushels better than last year and 1.3 bushels higher than the previous record set in 1992. **Durum wheat** production for 2004 totaled 90.5 million bushels, up 2 percent from August 1, but 6 percent less than last year. Grain area harvested totaled 2.45 million acres, 15 percent below a year ago. The U.S. yield is estimated at 37.0 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the last forecast and 3.3 bushels per acre above 2003.

U.S. **barley** production is estimated at 280 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at a record high 69.5 bushels, is up 3.8 bushels from the last forecast and 10.6 bushels above 2003. The area harvested for grain is estimated at

4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 15 percent below a year ago. Nationally, harvested area is the smallest since 1894 but yield is a new record high, 7.0 bushels above the previous record of 62.5 bushels set in 1992.

U.S. **oat** production is estimated at 117 million bushels, 9 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year's 144 million bushels. The estimated yield is 64.5 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from August and down 0.5 bushel from a year ago. Harvested area is 1.81 million acres, 7 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year.

Due to the late harvest of small grains, the National Agricultural Statistics Service will recontact survey participants in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Minnesota that had not finished harvesting at the time of their initial interview to collect information on final harvested acreage and yield. Any changes in acreage and production as a result of this reinterview will be published in the November Crop Production Report on November 12, 2004.

September 1, 2004 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on September 1, 2004 were 186.8 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago due to a 22 percent increase in all wheat production. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 167.0 million bushels, up 33 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted to 19.8 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the June - August 2004 quarter was down 11 percent from the same quarter last year to 27.9 million bushels, compared with 31.5 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 were 49.3 million bushels, up 40 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farms was 42.0 million bushels, up 50 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was up 1 percent from a year ago to 7.3 million bushels. **Oats** stocks in all positions were 2.6 million bushels, up 13 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 2.5 million bushels, up 14 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were down 17 percent from last year to 50,000 bushels. (Continued on back page.)

September 30, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	1,900	1,820	1,630	37.0	41.0	67,340	66,830
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	570	630	550	23.0	32.0	14,490	17,600
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,900	3,000	2,750	2,900	22.0	31.0	60,500	89,900
All Wheat	Bu.	5,440	5,470	5,200	5,080	27.4	34.3	142,330	174,330
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	4/	2,380	4/
Oats	Bu.	120	105	45.0	40.0	44.0	60.0	1,980	2,400
Barley	Bu.	1,150	1,000	850	830	40.0	59.0	34,000	48,970
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	4/	221	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	20.0	233	340
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	50.0	31.0	40.0	14.5	4/	450	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	38.0	26.0	35.0	10.5	4/	273	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	4/	56	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	53.0	25.4	21.0	1,308	1,113
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0	3/	3,339	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	2.00	3,360	3,200
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	1.60	1,275	1,520
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	1.85	4,635	4,720
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,561	2,869	2,448	33.7	37.0	96,637	90,468
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,842	13,763	13,441	13,294	39.5	43.1	531,402	573,618
All Wheat	Bu.	62,141	59,674	53,063	50,204	44.2	43.1	2,344,760	2,163,520
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Oats	Bu.	4,597	4,085	2,220	1,807	65.0	64.5	144,383	116,505
Barley	Bu.	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,031	58.9	69.5	278,283	280,103
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	17.9	4/	10,426	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,360.4	1,346.9	1,301.1	16.7	16.4	22,515	21,323
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	480.0	328.5	454.0	15.6	4/	5,202	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	300.0	237.0	293.0	10.1	4/	2,442	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	25.5	15.6	16.6	12.4	4/	183	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,326.3	22.7	21.4	30,583	28,373
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,107.6	1,037.8	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	3/	411,386	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76,307	77,264
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	80,816	84,499
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	157,123	161,763

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

September 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 2003	June 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004	'04/'03	Sept. 1, 2003	June 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004
	Thousand Bushels		Percent		Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	126,000	28,000	167,000	133%	687,320	131,880	795,600
Off Farms 1/	26,470	12,390	19,780	75%	351,652	414,939	1,146,115
TOTAL	152,470	40,390	186,780	123%	2,038,972	546,819	1,941,715
DURUM WHEAT 2/, 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	58,000	13,600	66,620
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	29,241	13,092	24,658
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	87,241	26,692	91,278
BARLEY							
On Farms	28,000	4,000	42,000	150%	141,900	28,320	176,500
Off Farms 1/	7,230	4,990	7,290	101%	99,730	91,989	115,305
TOTAL	35,230	8,990	49,290	140%	241,630	120,309	291,805
OATS							
On Farms	2,200	700	2,500	114%	82,100	27,500	74,800
Off Farms 1/	60	65	50	83%	49,637	37,348	41,454
TOTAL	2,260	765	2,550	113%	131,737	64,848	116,254
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	484,900	1,540,000	438,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	601,773	1,430,140	519,672
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,086,673	2,970,140	957,672

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

August Ag Prices Received

August full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with July 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$3.30 per bushel, down \$0.36 from the previous month but up \$0.03 from the previous year; spring wheat dropped \$0.42 to \$3.43 per bushel and was \$0.05 lower than August 2003; and durum wheat prices decreased \$0.30 to \$3.92 per bushel and were \$0.09 lower than the previous year. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.24 from the previous month and \$0.32 from the previous year to average \$1.67 per bushel. Malt barley prices were \$3.40 per bushel, \$0.02 lower than August 2003. The August 2004 oat price was \$1.56 down \$0.17 from the previous year.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was up \$2.00 from August 2004 to \$79.00 per ton, but all other hay decreased \$3.00 from August to \$71.00 per ton. The mid-September grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging \$3.32 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.93; durum wheat was \$4.04; feed barley was \$1.55; and malt barley averaged \$3.35.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mixed compared to July with

cows and steer and heifer prices falling, but calf prices increasing. For August, steer and heifer prices tumbled \$6.00 from July to \$108.00 per cwt. but were \$21.40 per cwt higher than August 2003. Cows held nearly steady from July, falling \$0.30 to \$58.80 per cwt., but were \$11.30 higher than a year ago. Calf prices rocketed to \$139.00 per cwt., an increase of \$11.00 from July and \$33.00 above a year ago, reaching an all-time record high price.

Sheep and lamb producers saw mixed prices for August. Sheep prices jumped \$6.00 from July and \$17.20 from August 2003 to \$43.20 per cwt, but lamb prices fell \$3.00 from July to \$109.00 per cwt. The all milk price for August was \$17.20 per cwt., falling \$2.20 from July, but \$5.50 higher than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month September averaged \$110.00 per cwt.; cows averaged \$54.00 per cwt.; and calves averaged \$133.00 per cwt. The mid-month September all milk price averaged \$15.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.19, down \$0.13 from July and down \$0.09 from August 2003, spring wheat was \$3.38, down \$0.17 from July

and \$0.04 from a year ago; durum wheat was \$3.85, down \$0.26 from July but \$0.07 above August 2003; the all barley price was \$2.79, up \$0.25 from July but down \$0.12 from August 2003, and steer and heifer prices were \$92.50, up \$0.70 per cwt. from July and \$9.60 above August 2003.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was \$3.36 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.64 per bushel, durum wheat was \$3.97 per bushel, all wheat was \$3.50 per bushel, malt barley was \$2.98 per bushel, feed barley was \$1.72 per bushel, and all barley was \$2.56. Steer and heifer prices were \$89.80 per cwt, cow prices were \$52.80, calves were \$129.00 per cwt., all hog prices were \$53.70 per cwt, and all egg prices were \$0.544 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in September, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.0 percent) below the August Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index, declined 7 points (5.9 percent) from August while the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.1 percent).

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 2003	September 2003	August 2004	September 2004
Prices Received	109	111	120	114
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	127	128	134	133
Ratio 2/	86	87	90	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana		U.S.		Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Aug. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2003	Sept. 15, 2004	Sept. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.27	3.66	3.30	3.19	-0.36	-0.03	3.32	3.36
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.01	4.22	3.92	3.85	-0.30	-0.09	4.04	3.97
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.85	3.43	3.38	-0.42	-0.05	3.93	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.87	3.45	3.27	-0.42	-0.01	3.73	3.50
Barley, All	Bu.	3.14	1.92	3.11	2.79	+1.19	-0.03	3.04	2.56
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.99	1.91	1.67	1.87	-0.24	-0.32	1.55	1.72
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.42	N/A	3.40	3.05	N/A	-0.02	3.35	2.98
Oats	Bu.	1.73	N/A	1.56	1.33	N/A	-0.17	N/A	1.33
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	78.00	77.00	97.40	-1.00	+2.00	79.00	95.50
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	74.00	74.00	70.00	N/C	+6.00	71.00	65.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	77.00	76.00	89.80	-1.00	+3.00	77.00	87.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.60	114.00	108.00	92.50	-6.00	+21.40	110.00	89.80
Cows	Cwt	47.50	59.10	58.80	54.70	-0.30	+11.30	54.00	52.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	78.00	97.00	97.20	88.90	+0.20	+19.20	103.00	86.30
Calves	Cwt	106.00	128.00	139.00	131.00	+11.00	+33.00	133.00	129.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.00	37.20	43.20	38.50	+6.00	+17.20	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	98.10	112.00	109.00	97.80	-3.00	+10.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.70	19.40	17.20	15.00	-2.20	+5.50	15.90	15.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Grain Stocks (continued)

In the United States, **all wheat** stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 1.94 billion bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 796 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are down 15 percent from a year ago.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions in the U.S. on September 1, 2004 totaled 91.3 million bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 66.6 million bushels, are up 15 percent from September 1, 2003. Off-farm stocks totaled 24.7 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 292 million bushels, up 21 percent from September 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 177 million bushels, 24 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 115 million bushels, are 16 percent above September 2003.

Oats stored in the United States in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 116.3 million bushels, 12 percent below September 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 74.8 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 41.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2004 was 61.4 million head. This was 1 percent above both September 1, 2003, and June 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was up 1 percent from September 1, 2003, and also up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.4 million head, was 1 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 26.0 million head, was up 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89

million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.00 for the June-August 2004 period, compared to 8.90 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the September-November 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in both 2003 and 2002. Intended farrowings for December 2004-February 2005, at 2.85 million sows, are up 1 percent from the same period in 2004, and up 3 percent from the same period in 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hay Production	Egg Production
Sugar Beet Production	Red Meat Production
Wheat Utilization	
Quarterly Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

Peggy Stringer, Director
Curtis E. Lund, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Editor
10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov